

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please replace paragraphs 17 and 18 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0017] As best illustrated in Figures 2 and ~~5~~ 4, the leading edge 56 of the blade 40 is displaced circumferentially towards the pressure side such that the leading edge is supported only by one extension or flange 48. Thus the mechanical loading transferred through the airfoil leading edge 56 is limited. This increases the damage tolerance of the airfoil to water wash induced erosion, water injected power augmentation induced erosion and foreign object damage. Mean and vibratory stress levels along the leading edge 56 of the airfoil 40 are also reduced by locating the leading edge overlying the flange 48.

[0018] To mount the blade 40 on wheel 10, the grooves 12 of the wheel 10 are modified. Particularly, recesses 60 are formed in the surface 34 of rim 14 on opposite sides of the groove 12 to accommodate the flanges 48 and 50. The remaining portions of the groove 12 are not modified and receive the base attachment 44 of the blades 40. As illustrated in Figure 3, the flanges 48 and 50 are disposed in the recesses 60 ~~and the~~, with an underside 61 of each flange seated on a shoulder 63 of the recess. The platform surface 54 of the replacement blade lies flush with the rim surface 34, both surfaces forming portions of the gas path.